

**Senator Don Benton** 



**Representative Jim Dunn** 



**Representative Marc Boldt** 

## **KEEP IN TOUCH**

## Senator Don Benton

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## Committees:

- Labor, Commerce & Financial Institutions
- Transportation, ranking Republican

## Representative Jim Dunn

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## Committees:

- Higher Education
- Local Government & Housing
- Trade & Economic Development, Vice chair

# Representative Marc Boldt

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### Committees:

- Appropriations
- Children and Family Services, Co-chair
- Judiciary

# 17th Legislative District Survey

Dear Friend,

The 2001 legislative session began on Jan. 8. Because our state operates on a two-year budget cycle, most major policy decisions are made in odd-numbered years when the budgets are written. This year is one of those years.

In addition to the budgets, there are several other extremely important issues being addressed during this 105-day legislative session, including property taxes and our state's election process.

Please take a moment to answer this 2001 survey and mail it back to us in Olympia, it will assist us in representing your views better throughout this important legislative session.

Sincerely,

Don Benton

State Senator

Jim Dunn

State Representative

Marc Boldt

State Representative

Please fold the completed survey into thirds, ensuring that the proper side featuring our return address is exposed, affix a first-class stamp and mail it to us at your earliest convenience. Your opinions are important to us.

Toll-Free Legislative Hotline: 1-800-562-6000

# 17th Legislative District 2001 Survey

Shade circles like this: Not like this: Please write comments ONLY in space provided at the end of survey.

# **Property Taxes**

- **1.** Which of the following measures to limit property taxes do you favor most?
  - O Voter approved Initiative 722, which limits the increase in property taxes to the lesser of two percent per year or inflation, should be implemented.
  - O Freeze the assessed value of property at the purchase price and allow reassessments only when title transfers occur.
  - O Eliminate the state portion of property taxes (Approximately 25% of your property tax bill).
  - O Nothing. The current rate of increase is appropriate.

# **Spending Limit**

- **2.** The state's voter-approved spending limit (Initiative 601) should be:
  - Maintained as is, limiting state spending while allowing for increases in spending based on population growth and the rate of inflation.
  - O Amended to reflect the increased spending mandated by recent voter approved initiatives.
  - O Amended to allow spending to increase at a higher rate.
- **3.** Governor Locke has proposed that the state spending limit created by Initiative 601 should be amended to exclude salary increases for school employees, mandated by Initiative 732, approved by voters last year. Do you agree or disagree with that proposal?
  - O Agree
  - O Disagree

# State Budget

O Higher Education

O Natural Resources

O Environmental Agencies

O Social Services

O Health Care

<b>4.</b> Governor Locke states that balancing the budget
while providing new funding to meet the state's
budget needs will require reductions in existing state
programs and services. In what areas would you
support spending cuts to help balance the budget?
(Identify your top three <u>spending cut</u> priorities.)
O Public Schools

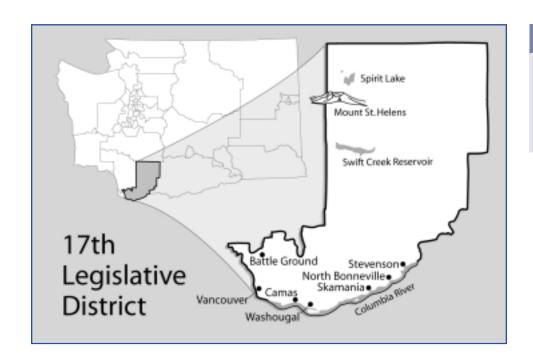
0	Law Enforcement
0	Transportation
0	Other (Please specify)
Tra	nsportation
Ribbo	the following measures suggested by the Blue n Commission to raise additional revenue for ortation which, if any, would you favor?
0	Gas tax increase
0	Indexing the gas tax to rise with inflation
0	Adding a sales tax on gas
0	Surcharge on transportation-related goods, such as new and used vehicles, parts and accessories
0	Tolls on roads and bridges
0	A statewide sales tax increase on all purchases devoted to transportation
0	Other (Please Specify)
0	No tax increase. Transportation improvements should be made with existing revenue.
portati	ould decisions about new taxes to fund trans- ion solutions be put on the ballot for voters to e or should the legislature make the decision?
0	Voters should be able to vote
0	The legislature should decide

# 17th Legislative District 2001 Survey

Education	O They should be released from prison and future nonviolent drug offenders should be placed in drug treatment programs instead of prison.
7. Please rank the following education issues in order of importance to you (1 being the most important).  1 2 3 4 5 6 7  A. Local control	<ul> <li>They should serve out their sentences and future nonviolent drug offenders should be placed in drug treatment programs instead of prison.</li> <li>They should serve out their sentences and</li> </ul>
B. Ensuring quality teachers in the classroom	future nonviolent drug offenders should go to prison for their crime.
C. School choice for parents	Property Rights
D. Smaller class size  OOOOOO  E. Teacher pay increases OOOOOO  F. Limiting curriculum to academic courses OOOOOOOO  G. Allowing experts without teaching credentials to teach their field of expertise OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO	<ul> <li>11. The bi-state Gorge Commission was created by the federal government to preserve the scenery of the Gorge. The commission is appointed to carry out this mission and is not subject to the public information act. To provide more accountability in their decision-making, should the Gorge Commissioners be elected instead of appointed? <ul> <li>Yes</li> <li>No</li> </ul> </li> <li>12. What other issues are important to you?</li> </ul>
Elections	
<ul> <li>9. What's your opinion of the state's blanket primary system in which voters are free to cross back and forth between Republicans and Democrats on the same ballot?</li> <li>O Strongly support it</li> <li>O Mildly support it</li> <li>O Mildly oppose it</li> <li>O Strongly oppose it</li> </ul>	Name
	Email address
<ul><li>Crime</li><li>10. What is your opinion on nonviolent drug offend-</li></ul>	<b>13.</b> If you do not have an email address, would you like to receive the regular legislative update through the U.S. mail?
ers who are currently in prison?	○ Yes ○ No

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## 17th Legislative District

The 17th legislative district includes east Clark County and west Skamania County.

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